

Reference

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Reply to the letter “Cadaveric fungi: Not yet an established forensic tool – Authors response”

Dear Editor,

At the outset we² are sorry to say that the authors¹ in the article “Cadaveric fungi: Not yet an established forensic tool – Authors response” have not taken our views² in a right and challenging scientific spirit, instead has raised damaging remarks on the authors.² The same caution should have been taken care by Menezes et al. in his article³, when the authors³ have loosely commented on the work and questioned on the validity of the study done by Hitosugi et al.⁴ The authors³ have prematurely commented that “the use of cadaveric fungi as a forensic tool in estimating time since death at autopsy as reported in the case by Hitosugi et al. may not be applicable without any appropriate reasoning”, which is very dishonorable statement to the forensic scientists,⁴ though the authors⁴ have scientifically substantiated their work leaving concluding remarks stating that “further researchers should be needed to clarify the successive colonization of fungi on human cadavers”. We² request the authors¹ to once again leisurely, go through the article written by Hitosugi et al.^{4,5}

Menezes et al. has “alleged” in his article¹ that we² have underestimated Forensic Entomology, which is very untrue and hence request the editorial team to verify the same and not to encourage the authors¹ to write loosely, just for the sake of publication. We have indeed mentioned in our article² that “It is a well known fact among the Forensic learned professionals that Forensic Entomology, though it is a well established science that helps in estimation of postmortem interval, it too has its own limitations like, where the postmortem interval cannot be ascertained when only skeletal remains or mummified remains have been recovered^{2,4} or when the body has been recovered from bottom of the well⁴ or buried under earth⁵... in those circumstances the Forensic Pathologist with the help of Environmental and Medical Mycologist can utilize the stage and biological type of fungal growth as a corroborative evidence in estimating the time since death.” So where stands the question of underestimating Forensic Entomology.

The views expressed in the article¹ is discouraging not only to us², but to the entire forensic investigators and readers. The truth should be accepted, regarded and debated scientifically. Hence we² put forth with a request to the learned editorial team to warn such authors, who degrade the views and work done by other scientist, with out having substantial research experience in that field, and in turn to encourage and respect the current budding scientific views. It is very disappointing to learn that, the author's¹ response

which was purely dishonoring has been encouraged and the basic importance of the Cadaveric Fungi as a tool in estimating time since death⁴ has been totally corned and strangled.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest to be declared.

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